



Directorate of
Intelligence

Top Secret

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

Iran-Iraq: Chemical Warfare Continues

An Intelligence Assessment

This paper was prepared by [redacted]

[redacted] Office of Scientific
and Weapons Research, and [redacted] Office of
Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis, with
contributions from [redacted] Office of
Imagery Analysis. It was coordinated with the
Directorate of Operations, the Arms Control
Intelligence Staff, and the National Intelligence
Council. [redacted]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 25-Sep-2009

Comments and questions are welcome and may be
directed to the [redacted]

[redacted]

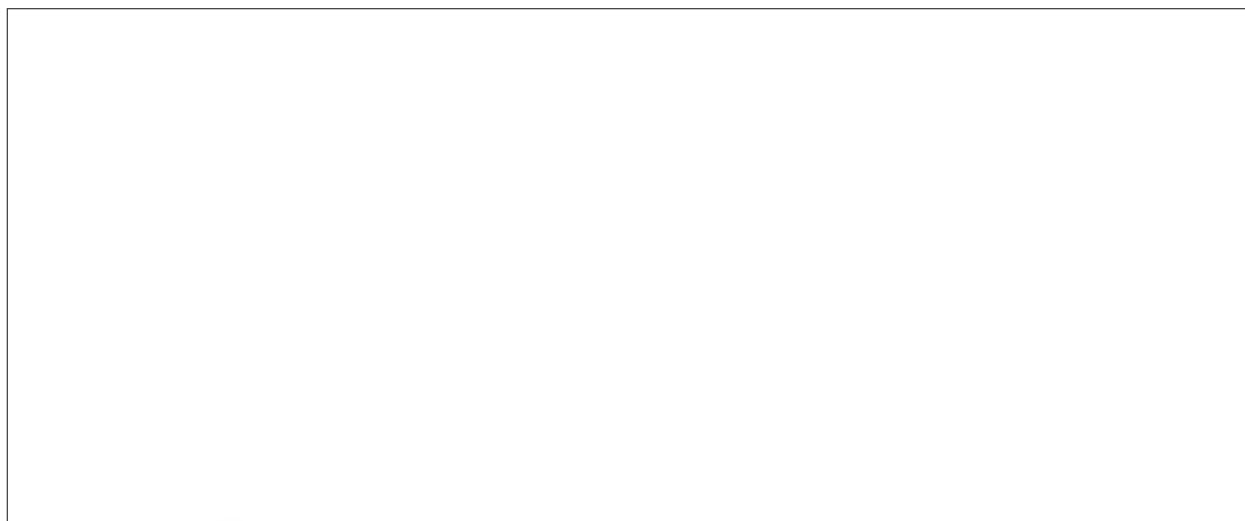
Source Blank

Top Secret

SW 86-10057CX
NES 86-10043CX

November 1986

(1)



mustard agent (shown by chemical analysis to be 95 percent pure) and tabun were used in the Val Fajr 8 and 9 offensives. (S NF NC OC)

Iran's Limited CW Use

[redacted] we judge that Iran probably has already used chemical weapons, including tear gas, mustard, and possibly blood agents, in limited amounts against the Iraqis. The limited quantities reportedly used suggest that Iran has only a small stockpile of chemical weapons available and that it may only have been combat testing its agents and delivery systems. [redacted]

The Iraqis have not always used their chemical weapons with great effectiveness. They have used them when the wind was blowing toward their own units and during daylight hours when the Iranians were more likely to be alert. Moreover, because Iran's major offensive successes usually have occurred during the rainy season, Iraq invariably has had to use its chemical weapons during unfavorable weather conditions. [redacted]

Relying on aerial bombs as its primary means of delivery has also caused Iraq problems (see inset.) [redacted]

We believe that Baghdad is trying to improve the military's use of chemical weapons. [redacted]

Some [redacted] medical personnel believe the symptoms of the victims support simultaneous exposure to two or more different agents. [redacted]

Utility Assessment: A Mixed Result

Despite the success of Iraq's initial use of chemical warfare during battles in 1983 and its gradually increasing familiarity with using chemical weapons, the effectiveness of its chemical attacks has been decreasing. This decrease has resulted from:

- Poor tactical employment.
- The lessened element of surprise.
- Increased Iranian preparedness.
- Possible technical problems with munitions, agents, and delivery techniques that the Iraqis are only now beginning to correct.